(c) The overall status of India as measured by the HDI is 0.602 out of a maximum value of 1. Of the three criteria comprising the HDI, India's position is 0.64 in the Life Expectancy Index, 0.61 in the Education Index and 0.56 in the GDP Index.

(d) The Government recognizes the importance of human development in development planning and in view of this the Tenth Plan has laid down specific monitorable targets for a few key indicators of human development along with the target for growth rate of GDP. These targets are considered as central to attainment of the objectives of Tenth Plan. The Government, both in the Centre and in the States have initiated a number of programmes to improve health and educational status of the people, as also to provide opportunities for employment and enhanced incomes. In order to improve literacy and universal enrolment, investment in education has been increased substantially both for the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and for universal coverage under the mid-day meal scheme. Similarly, in the health sector, there has been step up in investment with a new thrust on rural health (The National Rural Health Mission). In order to improve the level of living of the people, rapid economic growth with social justice is envisaged in the planning process. The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002—07) target a GDP growth rate of 8% per year. The emphasis is on agriculture development and on labour-intensive sectors, which would generate greater employment in the growth process. In addition, there are specially targeted anti-poverty programmes for the poor and disadvantaged groups. Improving delivery and governance are also receiving attention of the Government. These initiatives are expected to improve the various indicators used in the UN Human Development Index to provide the basic aspects of human development in the country.

Volunteers Training by Youth Organisations

*173. SHRIR.K.ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some youth organizations to train the volunteers in the event of any disaster;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details of such organizations;

(d) what has been the procedure* of identifying such youth organizations;

(e) what measures are being taken to train the young volunteers;

(0 which are the agencies involved in imparting the training;

(g) the number of such training programmes conducted during the current financial year; and

(h) the number of young volunteers enrolled in such training programmes?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Minsitry of Home Affairs has identified Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS), under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, to train youth volunteers for disaster risk reduction and management.

(d) These youth organizations have been identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs after extensive interaction with them for about two years in disaster management programmes. The main consideration in seeking their involvement is the extensive outreach of NSS in community service and the grassroots level reach of NYKS among rural youth.

(e) The young volunteers are trained in the preparation of community based disaster management plans, conduct of community level mock drills, school safety, awareness generation compaigns and disaster reponse at the local level.

(f) The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) under the Ministry of Home Affairs has organized training for State Coordinators of NSS and Zonal Directors/Regional Coordinators of NYKS. The training of field functionaries is further organized by the NSS & NYKS.

(g) and (h) During the current financial year, NSS has conducted one training programme in which 30 Programme Officers were trained. NYKS has organized 125 training programmes for 5000 National Services Volunteers on subjecis which include disaster management.